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Raised Bill 61
Public Hearing: 2-18-14

TO: MEMBERS OF THE LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE
FROM: CONNECTICUT TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (CTLA)
WORKERS' COMPENSATION SECTION
DATE: FEBRUARY 18, 2014

RE: COMMENT ON RAISED BILL 61 -- AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS'
COMPENSATION AND LIABILITY FOR HOSPITAL SERVICES.

The CTLA Workers' Compensation Section has reviewed this piece of legislation and recommends the following amendment:

In line 56, prior to "liability", insert "amount of the employer's".

That sentence would thus read:

All disputes concerning amount of the employer's liability for hospital services in workers' compensation cases shall be filed not later than one year from the date that the employer remits the payment or notifies the hospital of such employer's dispute and shall be settled by the commissioner in accordance with this chapter.

The proposed changes to the statute necessitate this change because it should maintain the same meaning as the other instances of the term "liability" in the statute, at existing lines 36 and 46, and at new lines 43 and 45. This will ensure the same liability is being referenced.

We feel this would protect employees because without the clarification the new inclusion of a one year time limit may create confusion and may be seen as to create a liability for the employee. This will make it clear that the liability is pecuniary and not in reference to the reasonable and necessary treatment given to the employee.

WE URGE YOU AMEND THE BILL AS OUTLINED ABOVE. Thank you.